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## Make Your Refrigerator Last Longer

A broadcast by Miss Ruth Van Deman, Bureau of Home Economics, and Mr. Wallace Kadderly, Office of Information, Tuesday, October 20, 1942, in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

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Oct. 20,

1942 WALLACE KADDERLY:

Reserve And here in Washington, Ruth Van Deman is ready to talk refrigerators with us...ready to pass along the rules for operating the home refrigerator so it can do an Al job of keeping food sound and fresh - in top-notch condition to eat.

RUTH VAN DEMAN:

And so the refrigerator itself will hold out for the duration or longer. Here's the "book of rules," Wallace, just up from the printing office this morning. It's a simple three-fold folder, you see, called "How to Make Your Refrigerator Last Longer." Open it up. You'll find the plain hard facts.

KADDERLY:

"The machines, metals, factories, labor that were making refrigerators and other household articles must now produce tanks, guns, engines...to win the war. Every saving...whether it's in the life of the refrigerator, in the fuel or energy used for operating it, or in the food stored in it, contributes to the all-out for victory." So that puts it up to us all - every man and every woman in every home - to make what we have last.

VAN DEMAN:

Squarely. Rule 1 for the refrigerator is to place it firm and level in a cool spot - and place it so there's at least 2 1/2 inches between the back of the refrigerator and the wall, and 8 to 12 of open space above.

KADDERLY:

Which allows air to circulate and carry off heat coming from the motor, of course... And what's the latest recommendation about temperature inside the cabinet?

VAN DEMAN:

Not less than 40 degrees Fahrenheit and not more than 50, except in the freezing unit. Keeping a refrigerator too cold is a waste of gas or electricity, and is likely to freeze the food. It's a waste of cold too to keep opening the door and letting warm air rush in. It takes some head work, but it pays to put in and take out a number of things at one time.

KADDERLY:

Night raiders on the icebox, take notice -

VAN DEMAN:

And night raiders, day users, and everybody who comes near a refrigerator these days, better take special notice of the rubber gasket on the door.

KADDERLY:

You mean to keep hands off?

VAN DEMAN:

I do. Greasy fingers or even the natural oil on the skin will do damage to that valuable rubber.

KADDERLY:

Suppose you accidentally spill something on it.

VAN DEMAN:

Get a soapy cloth and wash it off, pronto. And the same for any kind of food - most especially acid food - spilled inside the refrigerator.

KADDERLY:

Enamel finishes these days are acid-proof, I thought.

VAN DEMAN:

Acid-resistant. But even so, I wouldn't put them to too acid a test.

KADDERLY:

One thing I do know...that is, never use any kind of a sharp instrument to loosen the ice cube trays, or chip frost off the evaporator. To do that is to risk damaging metal parts difficult or impossible to replace...or maybe even puncture the coils that hold the freexing fluid. On some of the mechanical details of a refrigerator - the motor, for example - the man-about-the-house can be of help.

VAN DEMAN:

Right. He can listen to the motor now and then ... wipe off the belt in the motor compartment with a dry cloth .. oil any parts that need oiling.

KADDERLY:

And if the woman in the kitchen checked on how much of the time the motor runs, that would help.

VAN DEMAN:

Very important, yes. At normal setting, in the average kitchen, the motor in a modern electric refrigerator rarely runs more than a third of the time. If it runs more than that, warm air may be leaking in because of loose hinges or a worn-out gasket.

KADDERLY:

No matter whether anything is out of kilter or not, don't you think it pays to have a regular check-over?

VAN DEMAN:

Decidedly. Service men are having to watch their mileage and save those tires. But they can often work in a routine checkup without extra driving. Whereas a hurry-up trouble call may be costly on tires and even more costly in damaged parts to the owner of the refrigerator. Well, Wallace, we've by no means spelled out all the rules in this little folder "How to Make Your Refrigerator Last Longer."

KADDERLY:

No, but this brief glimpse of it makes me want to take this copy home, and park it right near the refrigerator, where I can check and recheck... And maybe some of our Farm and Home friends feel the same way.

VAN DEMAN:

"Barkus is willing."

KADDERLY:

And the Bureau of Home Economics mailroom is willing to handle the requests?

VAN DEMAN:

100% ready.

KADDERLY:

Very good. Then Farm and Home friends, if any of you want this new folder "How to Make Your Refrigerator Last Longer," send your post cards to the Bureau of Home Economics, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. If you don't remember the full title just write refrigerator folder.

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